

# SPAWN





# SPAWN

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SPAWN CREATED BY  
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## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Satan's messenger is sent to Earth to bargain with Spawn. He is told to give Satan his Costume or Wanda's soul will end up lost forever. Spawn, refusing the deal, battles the demon and as a result of losing the fight, the demon is forced to return to Satan in a permanent human form.

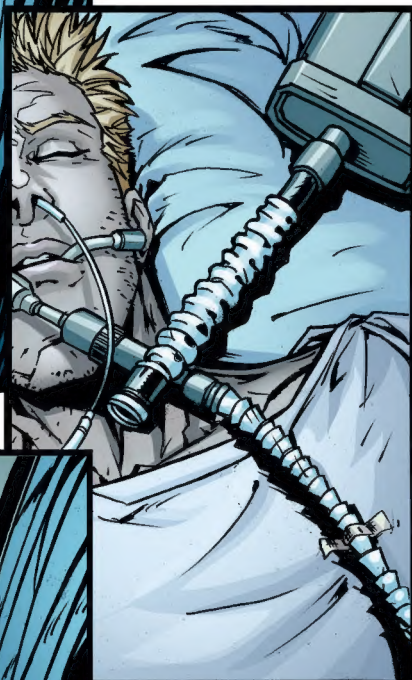
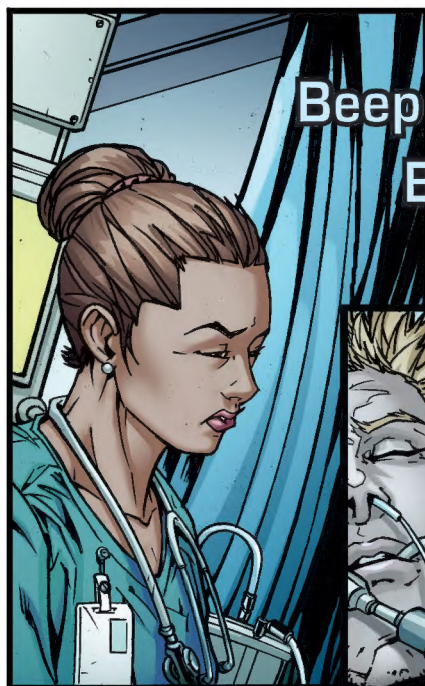
Following the fight, Al pays his respect at Wanda's funeral. Afterwards, Al visits an extremely distraught Terry, who blames Al for Wanda's death. He asks Terry information about the day Wanda was killed and reluctantly, Terry tells him. Before he leaves, Al puts a protection on the family and erases any memory of him ever coming to visit the Fitzgerald household.



Beep

Beep

Beep Beep

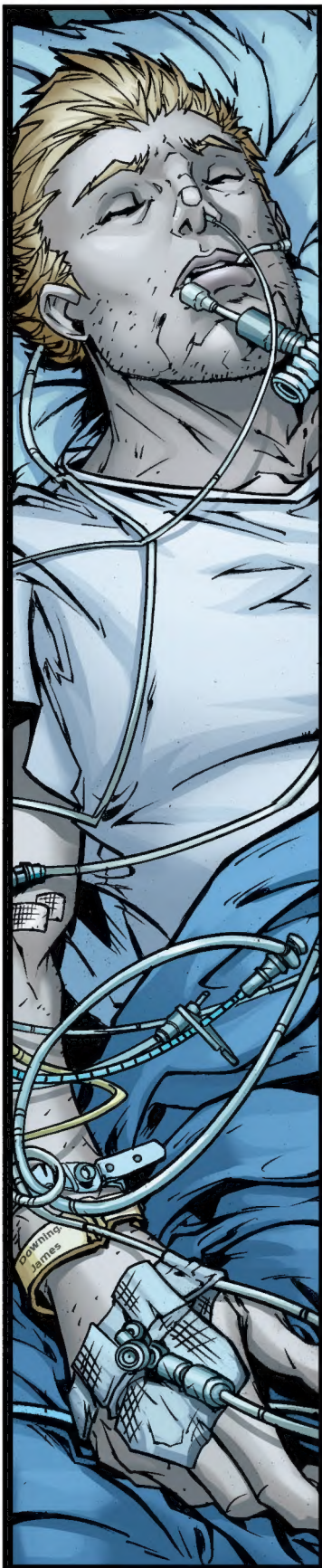


DOWNING,  
JIM  
RM. 923

"... AS MENTIONED  
EARLIER, WE WANTED  
TO BRING YOU AN  
UPDATE ON THE  
CURRENT CONDITION  
OF JIM DOWNING."

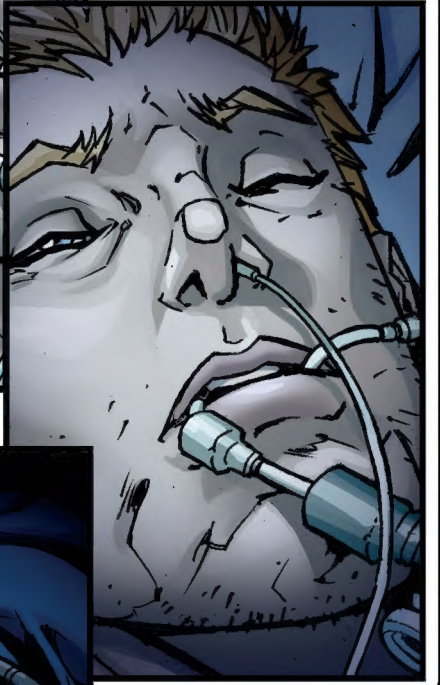






"THE UNFORTUNATE AFTERMATH OF NEW YORK CITY'S MYSTERIOUS ATTACK BY BILLIONS OF INSECTS NOT ONLY CAUSED DAMAGE TO THOUSANDS OF BUILDINGS, BUT TOOK ITS TOLL ON THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY AS WELL.\*

\*See issue 250 - Todd



"MR. DOWNING WAS ONE OF THEM. AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, HE HAD APPEARED SEEMINGLY OUT OF NOWHERE. FOR A TIME HE GAVE GREAT HOPE TO THOSE AROUND THE WORLD LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CURE THE AFFLICTIONS MEDICAL SCIENCE COULD NOT.

"HE WAS, AS SOME CALLED HIM, A MODERN DAY MESSIAH.

"HIS NEWLY ANNOUNCED FOUNDATION WAS TO BE AT THE CENTER WHERE DOWNING WOULD USE THOSE HEALING POWERS TO HELP OTHERS..."





CNR



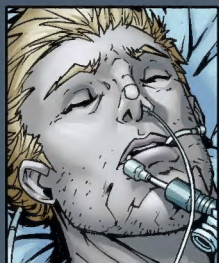
"...BUT AS REPORTED LAST WEEK, HIS BODY WAS RECOVERED, ALONG WITH DOZENS OF OTHERS BY THE NATIONAL GUARD. THOUGH HE DIDN'T APPEAR TO HAVE ANY LIFE THREATENING INJURIES, HE HAD ONCE AGAIN LAPSED INTO A COMA. VIEWERS WILL RECALL THAT IT WAS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT MR. DOWNING CAME ONTO THE PUBLIC STAGE AFTER WAKING FROM A LONG STANDING COMA. AT THAT POINT HE HAD NO KNOWN IDENTITY AND NO IDENTIFIABLE PAST. NO ONE FROM ANY GOVERNMENT OR SOCIAL AGENCY, THEN OR SINCE, COULD TELL US WHERE HE CAME FROM.

WITH THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT, WE MAY NEVER HAVE ANY ANSWERS AS TO WHO HE REALLY IS AND WHERE THOSE POWERS CAME FROM. DOCTORS CAN ONLY SAY THAT THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHEN HE WILL AWAKEN ONCE MORE."



"THE SADDEST PART OF THIS SITUATION IS THE DISAPPOINTMENT FELT BY COUNTLESS DESPERATE PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER. MR. DOWNING HAD GIVEN HOPE TO THOSE WHO HAD BEEN PRAYING THAT THEY, OR THEIR LOVED ONES, WOULD SOMEHOW BE 'SAVED' BY HIS HEALING ABILITIES. CONSTRUCTION HAS STOPPED ON THE FACILITY THAT WAS TO HOUSE HIS NEW FOUNDATION. BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST MATTHEW RAMUS, WHO WAS FUNDING THE ENDEAVOR, SAID HE WILL DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO FIND HELP FOR THOSE MOST IN NEED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE PROMISED TO GET MR. DOWNING THE BEST DOCTORS MONEY CAN BUY.

CRITICS ARE SUGGESTING ALL OF THIS MAY HAVE JUST BEEN A CLEVER PLOY BY MR. RAMUS TO LIFT PUBLIC OPINION TOWARD HIS COMPANY'S BRANDS. SOME WALL STREET INSIDERS ARE SUGGESTING THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN USING DOWNING AS A SMOKE-SCREEN WHILE SEVERAL OF HIS GLOBAL HOLDINGS FACE LEGAL BATTLES OVER THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL LAPSES."



7

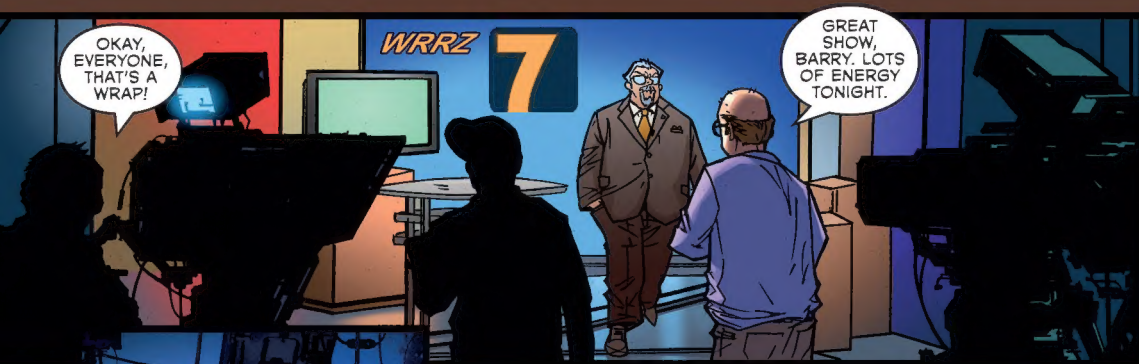
WRRZ

"LOOK... I GET IT! HONESTLY, I DO.

YOU'RE PUPPETS. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE. YOU DON'T REALLY CARE THAT IT WAS NEVER DEFINITELY PROVED THAT MR. DOWNING COULD ACTUALLY DO HIS 'HEALING THING' WHENEVER HE WANTED. **ALL YOU SUCKERS** JUST TOOK HIS WORD FOR IT! **YOU'RE PATHETIC!**

HE WAS A CON MAN. A SNAKE OIL SALESMAN. AND INSTEAD OF US QUESTIONING THE VIABILITY OF WHAT HE COULD OR COULDN'T DO... WE MADE HIM A MEDIA DARLING. A SEX SYMBOL. HELL, YOU EVEN STARTED A WEBSITE CALLING HIM THE "**SECOND COMING**." THAT'S HOW **DESPERATE AND BROKEN** OUR COUNTRY HAS BECOME! THAT WE PUT ALL OUR FAITH INTO A MAN WHO **COULDN'T EVEN TELL US** WHO HE WAS! SO, SEND ME YOUR NASTY EMAILS IF YOU WANT, BUT I'M GLAD HE'S IN A COMA! I GUESS YOU'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER **FRAUD** TO GIVE MEANING TO YOUR **RIDICULOUS LIVES!**"









THEN  
WHO  
DID?

SMASHH

WAS  
IT **BELIAL**?  
DID HE GIVE  
THE ORDERS?  
OR WAS IT  
SOMEONE  
ELSE?

THEY'LL  
KILL ME  
IF I...

I'LL  
KILL YOU  
IF YOU  
DON'T.

TELL ME  
WHERE  
THEY TOOK  
HER.

**'THE  
TUNNEL!'**  
THEY SAID THEY  
WERE GOING TO  
TORTURE HER IN THE  
TUNNEL... AFTER  
THEY KILLED  
HER.





...THE FASCINATION HUMANS HAVE WITH THINGS THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT. IT MUST BE THE VISUALS THEY'RE ATTRACTED TO.

THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS GUY'S ART. AND THESE SILLY CHARACTERS. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

REALLY, A GUY WITH SPIDER POWERS?





GET UP AND WIPE YOUR ASS.

WE NEED TO TALK.

IT CAN'T WAIT A FEW MINUTES?





NO.  
IT  
CAN'T.

'THE  
TUNNEL.'  
WHERE IS IT  
AND HOW  
DO I GET  
TO IT?



THE  
TUNNEL!?  
YOU WANT TO  
GO TO THE  
TUNNEL?

DO YOU  
EVEN KNOW  
WHAT THAT IS?  
IF YOU DID, YOU  
WOULDN'T BE  
ASKING ME  
ABOUT IT.



WHY?  
BECAUSE  
I'LL BE  
AFRAID?

I DON'T GIVE  
A SHIT WHAT  
SATAN OR YOUR  
GOD HAVE CREATED  
TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.  
IF YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED  
IT OUT-- 'FEAR'  
ISN'T SOMETHING I  
ACKNOWLEDGE ANY-  
MORE. NOW... YOU  
GOING TO HELP  
ME OR NOT?

I'M  
NOT THE  
BAD GUY  
HERE, AL.  
TAKE IT  
EASY.



SO YOU  
KEEP SAYING.  
THEN SHOW  
ME AND STOP  
TALKING  
ABOUT IT.

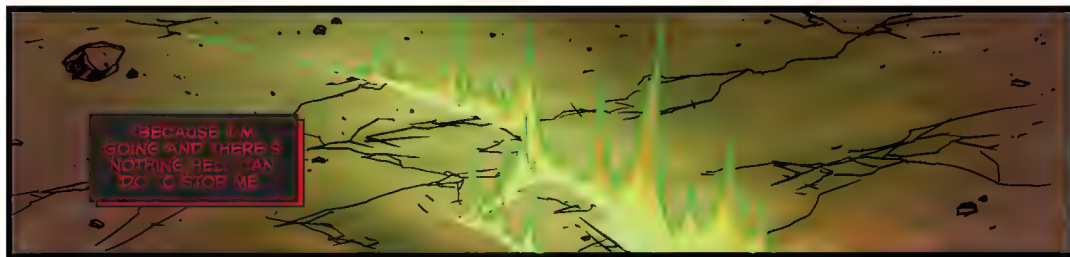
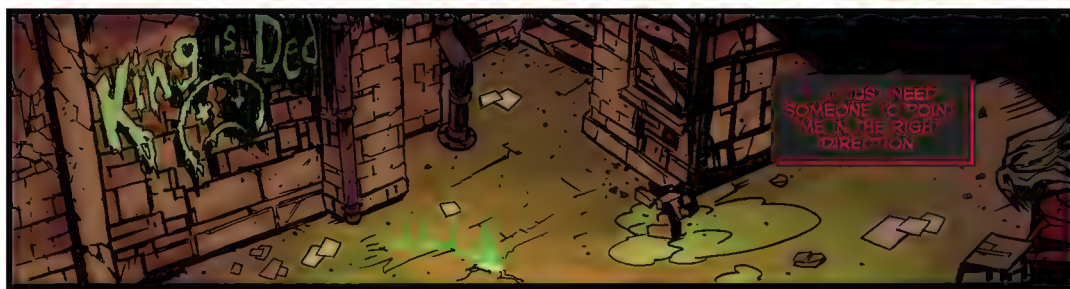
LISTEN TO  
ME. YOU CAN'T GET THERE  
ON YOUR OWN. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS HUMAN  
TO GET THERE. YOU NEED TWO KEYS  
TO UNLOCK THE ENTRANCE. ONE  
HAS TO BE AN ANGEL. THE OTHER,  
A DEMON. AND BOTH NEED TO  
COME WILLINGLY.

I CAN BE  
ONE OF YOUR  
KEYS. BUT EVEN IF  
WE COULD GET PAST  
THE FIRST BARRIER...  
IT'S A MAZE, A BLACK,  
INFINITE MAZE TO  
GET TO THE TUNNEL  
ITSELF. WE COULD  
GET LOST FOR A  
CENTURY IN  
THERE.

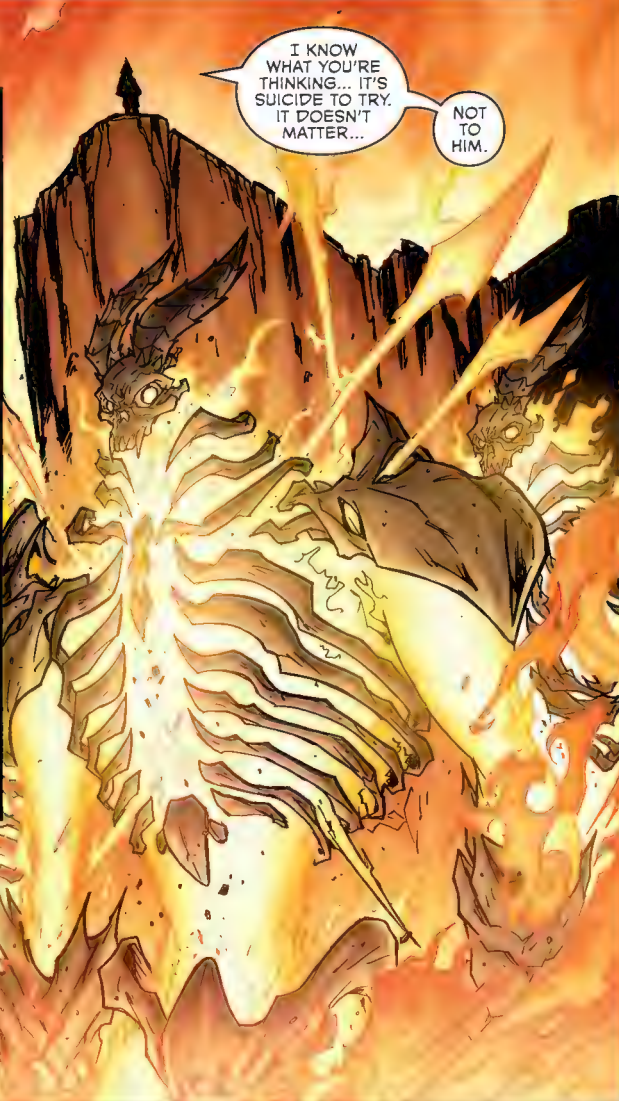
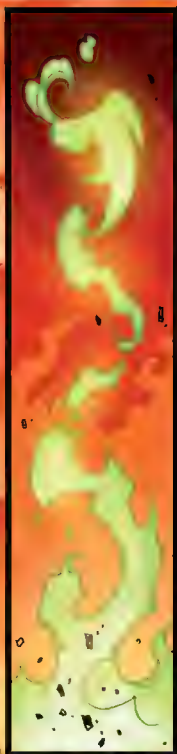
I DON'T  
PLAN ON  
DOING  
THAT...







"NOTHING."

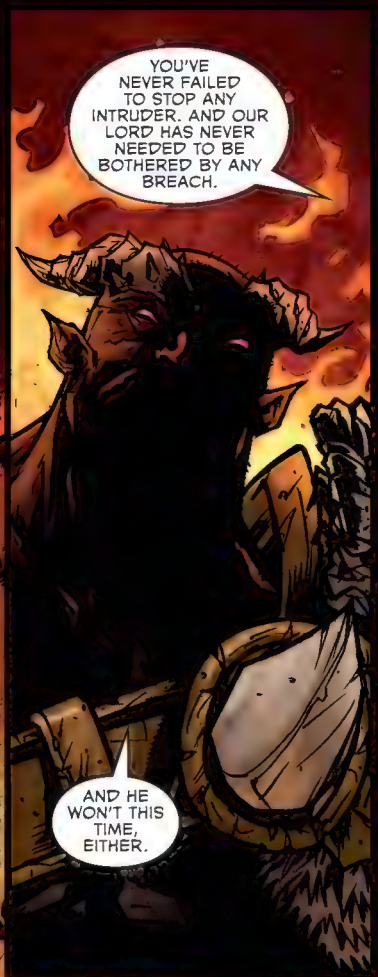






THEN WE'LL  
DO TO HIM WHAT  
WE'VE DONE TO  
ALL THE OTHERS  
THAT TRIED.

THAT'S WHAT  
I'M COUNTING ON.  
WHY YOU WERE  
PICKED FOR THIS  
MISSION.



YOU'VE  
NEVER FAILED  
TO STOP ANY  
INTRUDER, AND OUR  
LORD HAS NEVER  
NEEDED TO BE  
BOTHERED BY ANY  
BREACH.

AND HE  
WON'T THIS  
TIME,  
EITHER.



DO YOU  
WANT HIM  
TAKEN  
PRISONER?

SORT  
OF.

SATAN  
WANTS THE  
COSTUME. THAT'S  
ALL. CAPTURE THAT  
AND HE DOESN'T  
CARE WHAT YOU  
DO TO THE  
HUMAN.



AND JUST  
LIKE HE DID WHEN  
HE HEALED ME FROM  
MY INJURIES, HE'LL  
REWARD YOU FOR  
YOUR EFFORTS. YOU  
AND YOUR ENTIRE  
ARMY.

YOU'LL ALL  
BASK IN THE  
GLOW OF OUR  
MASTER'S  
GRATITUDE.





UNFORTUNATELY, OVER TIME, HELL HAS FORSAKEN SOME OF ITS OWN, AND BECAUSE OF THAT NEGLECT, THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO HELL HAS SLOWLY ERODED, FORCING THESE NEW 'ROGUE AGENTS' TO SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN.

BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

GIRLS GIRLS

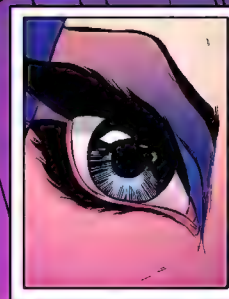
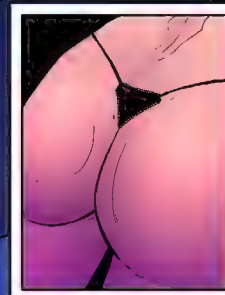
SOME HAVING FARED BETTER THAN OTHERS, AND IN A FEW CASES, THOSE DEMONS DISGUISED AS A HUMAN... HAVE BECOME THEIR OWN WORST ENEMY.

FALLING PREY TO MAN'S TEMPTATIONS

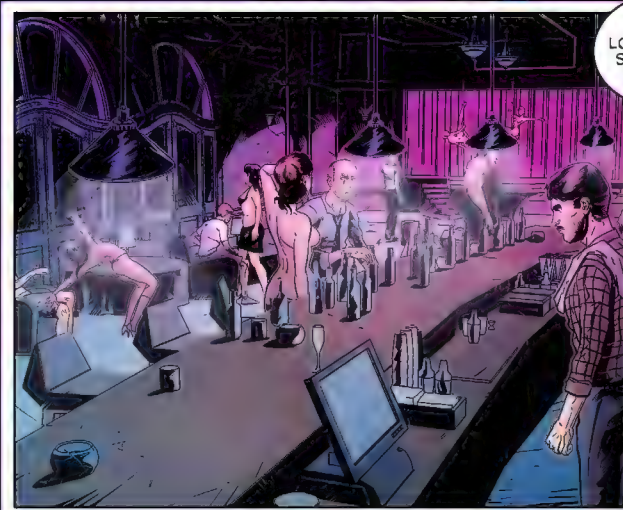
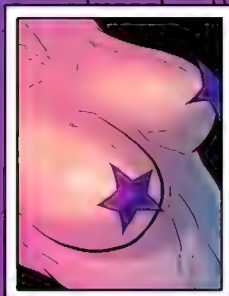




BUT IN TIME, THOSE FORSAKEN AGENTS WILL ULTIMATELY SHOW THE WORLD IF THEIR PAIN WAS REAL...



...OR IF IT WAS JUST SOME FANTASY. AN ACT TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THEY APPEARED WEAK.



HEY, BIG FELLA, LOOKING'S FREE. SO HOW ABOUT YOU BUY US A DRINK?



I'M NOT THIRSTY.

EVER.



FINE... HAVE IT YOUR WAY.







HEY,  
GRAMPS...  
YOU NEED  
TO STOP  
SCARING THE  
TALENT.



WHAT'S  
THAT?

tink

FELLA AT  
THE END OF  
THE BAR  
BOUGHT YOU  
A DRINK.

SHIT.



TELL  
HIM I  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
TALK.



THAT'S  
TOO BAD.  
I'M NOT  
GIVING  
YOU A  
CHOICE.

**SIMMONS?!**

JEEZ!...  
HOW'D  
YOU...?

HOW'D I  
REGENERATE  
MY HEADLESS  
CORPSE? THE  
CORPSE YOU  
HID IN THE  
ALLEYS?

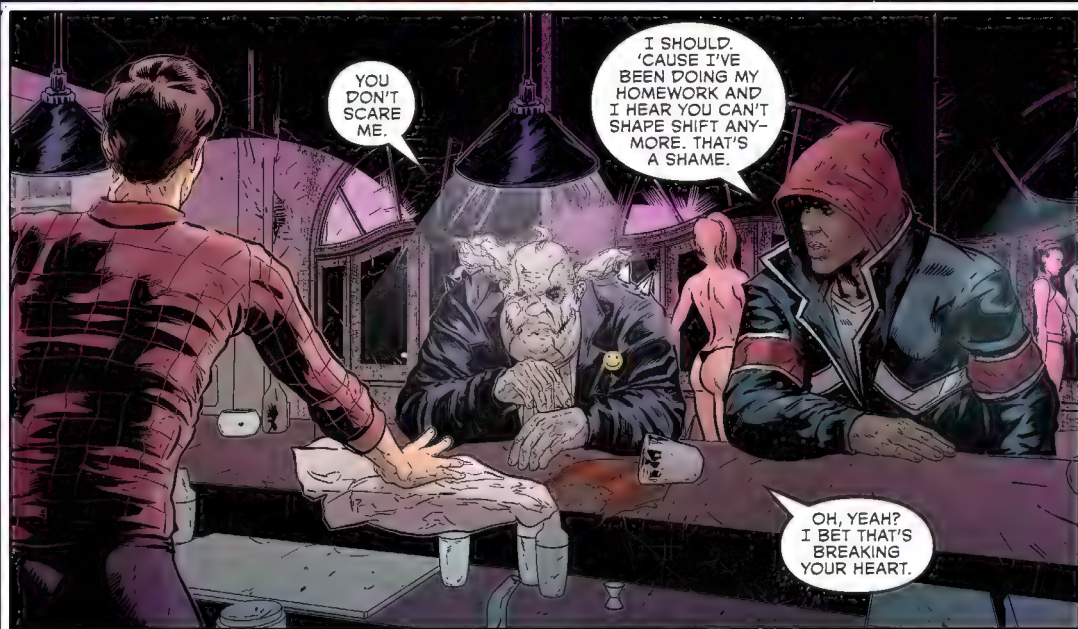
MAYBE  
I'LL TELL YOU  
ANOTHER DAY.  
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M  
HERE. SEE, I NEED TO  
EXTRACT A LITTLE INFO  
AND YOU'RE JUST THE  
GUY I'M LOOKING  
FOR. NOW SCOOT  
YOUR FAT ASS  
OVER.



YOU  
DON'T  
SCARE  
ME.

I SHOULD.  
'CAUSE I'VE  
BEEN DOING MY  
HOMEWORK AND  
I HEAR YOU CAN'T  
SHAPE SHIFT ANY-  
MORE. THAT'S  
A SHAME.

OH, YEAH?  
I BET THAT'S  
BREAKING  
YOUR HEART.



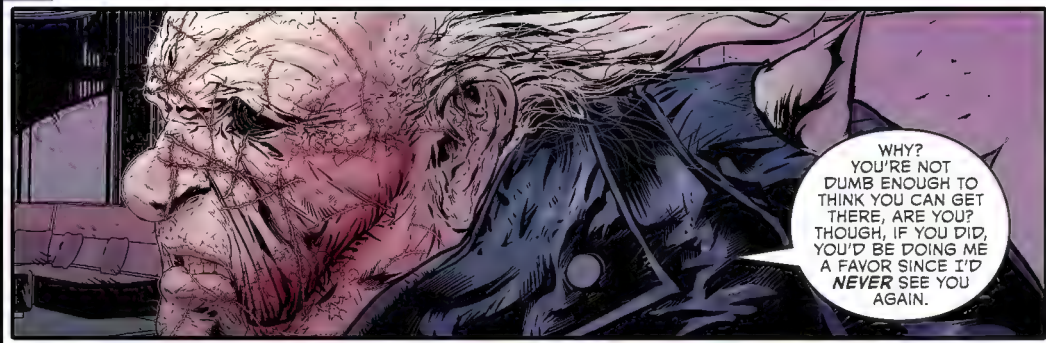




DID YOU  
TELL DOWNING  
HOW TO DO THAT  
TO ME, OR DID HE  
DO THAT ALL BY  
HIMSELF?

DOWNING  
WAS HIS OWN  
MAN. I'M SURE  
HE DID WHAT HE  
NEEDED TO.

BUT LET  
ME ASK  
YOU--WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT 'THE  
TUNNEL?'



WHY?  
YOU'RE NOT  
DUMB ENOUGH TO  
THINK YOU CAN GET  
THERE, ARE YOU?  
THOUGH, IF YOU DID,  
YOU'D BE DOING ME  
A FAVOR SINCE I'D  
NEVER SEE YOU  
AGAIN.



SO...  
WHAT'S  
OUR NEXT  
TOPIC?

WE'RE STILL  
ON IT. 'THE TUNNEL,'  
I NEED TO GET THERE.  
FAST. I'M BETTING  
YOU CAN HELP ME  
WITH THAT.

MAYBE.  
WHAT'S  
YOUR  
RUSH?

I WANT  
TO KILL SATAN.  
THEN STOP  
GOD FROM  
MESSING WITH  
US.

YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
TAKE THEM  
BOTH  
ON?

YEP.

WHY  
DIDN'T YOU  
SAY THAT IN THE  
FIRST PLACE?  
LET'S GET OUT  
OF HERE.



WATCH  
IT, OLD  
MAN!



I'LL  
WATCH  
MYSELF ALL  
RIGHT.



A REAR DOOR GIVES THEM THEIR PRIVACY.

NOW WHAT?

I NEED YOU TO TURN INTO SPAWN. AND DON'T ASK WHY. JUST DO IT!

THE PROBLEM WITH YOU SPAWNS IS YOU'RE *STUPID*! YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU... YOU CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT.

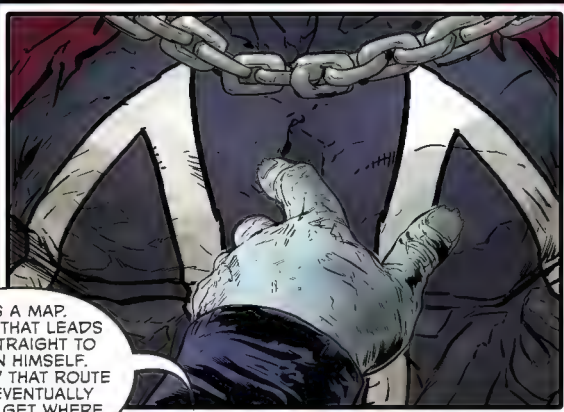
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR RANTS. I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW TO GET TO THE TUNNEL.

YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO GET THERE. YOU ALWAYS HAVE.

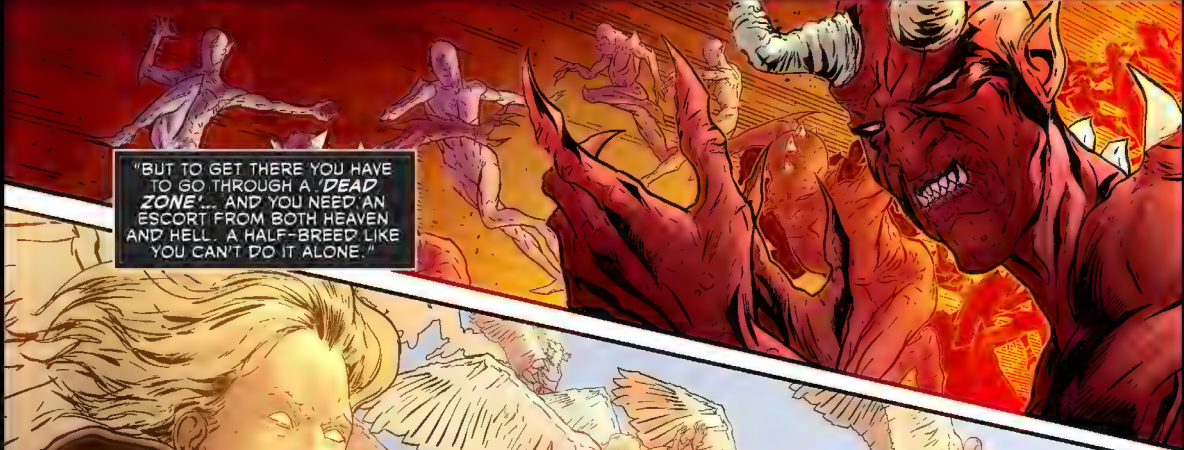
I'M LOSING MY PATIENCE, CLOWN!

RIGHT THERE! THE WHITE MARK-- ON YOUR CHEST. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT IS?


IT'S A MAP. A MAP THAT LEADS YOU STRAIGHT TO SATAN HIMSELF. FOLLOW THAT ROUTE AND EVENTUALLY YOU'LL GET WHERE YOU WANT.







"BUT TO GET THERE YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH A 'DEAD ZONE'... AND YOU NEED AN ESCORT FROM BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL. A HALF-BREED LIKE YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE."




I'M TALKING TRUE HELL-BORN. THEN YOU'LL NEED TO FIND A HEAVEN-BORN ESCORT. AND I SURE AS SHIT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND ONE OF THOSE.

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT. BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY HELL PIECE.

WHAT!?

I'M ASSUMING I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. SO TELL ME... WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

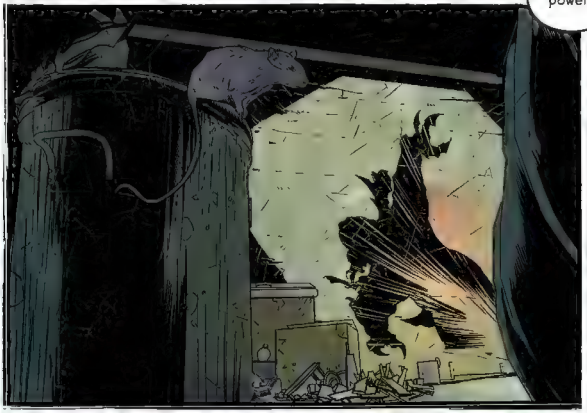


I'LL GIVE YOU ENOUGH POWER TO SHAPE SHIFT AGAIN. IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR.



AS THE NIGHT AIR GROWS FRIGID, THE CLOWN IS MESMERIZED BY ONE THOUGHT ONLY.

More power...







...I WAS  
HOPING  
YOU'D  
**SAY  
THAT!**

**NEXT:** into the **ABYSS...** towards **'THE TUNNEL'**





SPAWN WHEREVER YOU ARE.

The ENTIRE *Spawn* comic library and *Spawn Origins Collection* Volumes 1 – 20 is now available in digital format from ComiXology, iBooks, Google Play, and imagecomics.com. Fans can immerse themselves with 23 years and 250+ issues of *Spawn* with the simple swipe of a fingertip. *Spawn* is one of the world's best-selling and longest-running independent monthly comic books, know for it's hyper-detailed art from its creator, **Todd McFarlane**. Now you can read the entire series wherever you are.

**ALL ISSUES**  
**AVAILABLE NOW DIGITALLY**







# SPAWNING GROUND

Hello all,

After a quiet few months, we are picking up in McFarlane news again. First of all, Todd attended a GameStop Convention in Vegas a few weeks back to show the retailers and fans all of the cool new HBO's *Game of Thrones* and AMC's *The Walking Dead* construction sets we have coming out in the fall.

Finally, we have launched our NEW McFarlane website! There is all kinds of information about products, projects and of course, the SPAWN comic! Some of the highlights of the website include: a where to buy feature for all toys and comics, a wish list and 'my collection' creator. The best part (I think) is Todd's blog! Check it out at [mcfarlane.com](http://mcfarlane.com).

Next month, Todd will be attending New York Comic Con with McFarlane Toys. His schedule is jammed packed showing off awesome toys, hosting free autograph sessions and even speaking in a panel or two. Information about his schedule will be posted on [McFarlane.com](http://McFarlane.com) and his blog (*ToddFather Talk*) when it becomes available.

For this week's Spawning Ground, we wanted to spotlight someone who has been with *Spawn* and Todd since the beginning. There are not many people who can say they've been on a book from issue #1, let alone be on a series for 256 issues! Tom Orzechowski has lettered a whole lot of comics for a great range of publishers over a good many years. He did his first logo, for a zine, at age 14, and began lettering for Marvel five years later. His influences include '60s comics, '40s sheet music and '20s sign painting. Projects include *Spawn*, of which he lettered #1 and has worked on every issue since; seventeen years on *Uncanny X-Men*; *Manara Library*; *Scooby-Doo*; *Ghost in the Shell*; and many others.

Enjoy!  
Shannon Bailey  
Publishing Coordinator

## 1. How did you first come to work with Todd?

Marvel had a creator-owned line of comics, called Epic, in the 1980s. Todd's first published work was there, on a few stories in Steve Englehart's comic *Coyote*, which I was lettering. That was in 1985. Todd then worked for DC for a year or so, which is when he and I first met face-to-face at the San Diego Comic-Con. I believe he got his first Marvel script within a few days of getting home from that con, and that led quickly to *Hulk* and then *Spider-Man*. Meanwhile, I was lettering most of the *X-Men* related books. We had different editors, and so none of his Marvel books came my way.

## 2. What has made you want to work with Todd for all of these years?

Todd is never boring. I was among the first two or three people he called when he was developing *Spawn*, and that was really flattering. I'd quit *X-Men* a few months earlier, and was in the market for something new that I could get my hooks into. Out of nowhere came he called with the offer to work on something intense, where I could really cut loose. Was I interested? Heck yeah, let's talk business. That was 23 years ago. The book is still intense. I'm staying put.



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### 3. How has the industry changed since you first started and what has changed most?

My start at Marvel was in 1973. Comics were 20¢ and you could buy them at drug stores, corner stores, pretty much everywhere. Everyone saw comics all the time and so there were comics for everyone. Romance. Humor. Kid comics. When the comic shops became widespread, superheroes and suspense books were pretty much all you'd see. Image Comics started just as tastes were pushing out again. There are a lot of people reading the books now who've never read a costume hero comic. Image has been a part of that.

### 4. What do you find most challenging about being a letterer?

The biggest impact on me personally has been the shift away from pen and ink. Digital media can save a lot of time, but it's not as personable. The challenge is to get the crazy spontaneity into the fonts.

### 5. What do you love about being a letterer?

It's very satisfying to take the script bits, the balloons, captions and sound effects, and make them match the flow of the artwork. You can't just place those things into the corners of the panels to get them out of the way. Comics today aren't drawn with the tops of the panels left blank to hold the dialogue. So, it's a

matter of complimenting the script and artwork equally. You want a seamless outcome. If the balloons are placed sensibly within the artist's compositions, they won't have the appearance of being in the way. I've done workshops on this, titled "Lettering As Cosmetic Surgery: What To Do When The Art Is In The Way Of The Script." Big fun!

### 6. What is your process?

The lettering is done in Adobe Illustrator. It's possible to do the job in Photoshop, InDesign or Manga Studio, but there's a lot less flexibility that way.

### 7. Any advice for someone looking to getting into lettering comics?

The competition is fierce. Get familiar with the best work that was done, past and present, on story titles and sound effects. Buy new fonts every so often, including a few that not everyone else is using. The font vendors have tutorials on page design, as well as on how to do clever & easy effects. They're all worth the practice time. The more time you spend learning the basics, the faster your work will go. But, I repeat: the competition is fierce, and that includes me!



**NEXT ISSUE**  
Spawn enters The Tunnel.



KELLY SUE DECONNICK

VALENTINE DE LANDRO

# BITCH PLANET

## VOLUME 1

"THERE'S A NEW SCI-FI WOMEN-IN-PRISON COMIC IN TOWN: *BITCH PLANET*"

-*BITCH MAGAZINE*

"A REFRESHING FORAY INTO THE FEMINIST EXPLOITATION GENRE."

-*THE GUARDIAN*

"WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A BLEAKER *ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK*, WITHOUT THE LILY-WHITE LEAD, IN SPACE? ...PICK UP *BITCH PLANET*."

-*THE MARY SUE*

"MEET '*BITCH PLANET*,' YOUR '*BOLD, BEAUTIFUL, AND BAAAAD*' SUBVERSIVE FEMINIST COMIC OBSESSION."

-*SALON*

"AN IMMENSELY REFRESHING READ, AGGRESSIVELY ADDRESSING CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES THROUGH A FUTURISTIC SCI-FI STORY WITH A PREDOMINANTLY FEMALE CAST."

-*THE UNION'S A.V. CLUB*

# OCTOBER 2015

# 1



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GREG RUCKA • NICOLA SCOTT



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**SOMETHING WICCA  
THIS WAY COMES...**

**OCTOBER 2015**

